

7/21/08 Woods Bay Section 20 Community Meeting Discussion

Points:

Introduction:

Members of the local community and DNRC representatives (including DNRC Director Mary Sexton) met at the Bethany Lutheran Church with the primary purpose of evolving a “working group” to work on alternatives to land-banking for the Woods Bay Section 20 440 acre parcel. Following are the transcribed flip chart notes from the meeting as discussion evolved to identify a working group. An initial “Startup Group” or “Steering Committee” was identified, with their primary goal being to expand to an appropriate “Working Group” that represents the concerns of the community at large for the project. Steering Committee members are: George Darrow, Jim Frizzell, Kevin Gownley, Donna Lawson, Clarice Ryan, Paul Rana, Greg Poncin, and Anne Moran. Their first meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. at Saddlehorn Discovery Tower, located at 475 Grand Drive in Bigfork on August 21, 2008.

Working Group

- Bob: Comm. Foundation for a Better Bigfork (CFBBF)– 2 members of CF/BBF
- Woods Bay Resident – Mark Langlois
- Area – Donna Lawson
- Representative of Collective Community Projects
- What is the ideal size of working group?
- What kind of representation should there be? i.e.,: USFS, FWP, biologist, adjacent landowners
- “Assent” from larger group to reps – to narrow.
- Bigfork steering committee also rep.
- Elna D. – BSC (Bigfork Steering Committee) has ± 5 “self-select”
- Leslie B. – North Lake County planning & zoning group >12 members
- Need agency reps
- Consensus works in Bigfork
- For landowners & residents, go to self-selection
- Need Lake County Planning help
- Forester (as distinct from USFS Rep.)
- “Self-select” – If you attend 3 consecutive meetings, you’re in.
- ~20, depending on agencies and DNRC
- What about self-limiting?
- Fred Hodgeboom noted for CFFBBF project
- Look at not only land, but productivity to meet land’s mission – needs representative to examine business aspects.
- Business – people technically trained in forest fuels.
- Select a couple as co-chairs to recruit from community. Kevin and George?
- “recruited self-selection”?
- Jim F.- Would like to see decision-makers from DNRC/USFS
- Steve B.- What is focus of this group? 440 parcel or broader?
- USFS is not seeing this process as broader (than 440 acre parcel) forest planning.
- Frye – Commit to this parcel in particular.
- Edd – Desire to have USFS representative involved to outline options/opportunities.

- Verdell – 1) We have to satisfy revenue requirement of statute.
2) Land board makes final decision. They must have comfort level that law is followed (MonTrust experience)
- This interest (MonTrust) should be represented.
- Fires – Battle with Federal/State/County. How can we be more proactive (Feds first line).
- Frye – locally, excellent fire-suppression relationship.
- Leslie – Recommends that KU (Moran/Poncin) be involved.
- Frye – Letter from Paul Rana – would like to serve.
- George is willing to accept chg. Kevin willing to be involved, but doesn't want to chair.
- Donna Lawson?

- Duties:
Get the word out to community to determine involvement.
Mary S – Steering committee of three to five?

- Steering committee?
George D.
Jim Frizzell
Kevin Gownley
Donna Lawson?
Clarice Ryan
DNRC Reps
Paul Rana

- Small funds – ads, copy, etc.
(DNRC can help on small basis)

- Summarize goal?
 - Bring together larger group to get the word out
 - Identify what agency/tech rep also necessary
 - Consider asking Diane Conradi to be involved?

- Time frame?
- Verdell – Will working group hold open meetings and allow attendance and public comment?
Must be open
Must be noticed
Must be public comment

- End of August for steering committee?
August 4 – 8/-August 29
Location? Saddlehorn?

- Notification
Public service ad
Email

- Mary – great progress
Long process
Sets examples
LB on hold

Potential Agenda Items and Q & A

- Consider productivity of the forest as well as recreational use, aesthetics, etc.
- Current USFS position is to keep the parcel in the state ownership with participation in easement as opposed to development.
- Trust mission/mandate has to be ? the baseline assumption of the committee or MonTrust will sue.
- Future owner will have to manage the forest for fire/interface.
- Kevin's recap of discussion with Frank Gilmore re: Income
- Solicit Diane Conradi's involvement based on her expertise and experience.
- Other parcels of trust lands may be involved or be considered by the working group.
- Plum Creek land transaction
- Public forum/presentation to inform potential financial contributors to increase chances of getting state \$.
- Public field tour.